

FOREWORD

Transcript Warning:

All written transcripts are imperfect abstracts of spoken conversation. Variations in sound quality and in the aural acuity of listeners can and do produce wide variations in what is heard. Even though transcripts may be prepared at great effort and with great care, many points of ambiguity are inevitable, and erroneous interpretations from transcripts are always possible. Therefore, to ensure full confidence in any and all quotations from the presidential recordings, users are strongly urged to check all transcript renditions against the actual tape recordings before publication.

Copyright:

The donors assigned copyright that they might have in the recordings to the United States; however, copyright of the donors does not extend beyond statements uttered by John F. Kennedy, his minor children, and the donors themselves. Statements uttered by officials of the United States government in the course of their duties are considered to be in the public domain. Users of this material are cautioned, however, that not all persons recorded were members of the Kennedy family or government officials. A number of the people recorded were, at the time of recording, private citizens. Therefore, those intending to quote from this material beyond the accepted limits of fair use are cautioned to determine the copyright implications of any intended publication.

Punctuation:

The following conventions are used throughout the transcripts:

- * * * To indicate a pause in the recording while the speaker listens to the person speaking at the other end of the telephone. Used when only one side of a telephone conversation is recorded.
- [?] When the transcriber is not certain of what is said on the recording.
- To indicate a sentence which the speaker trails off without completing it.
- . . . When a speaker is interrupted before a sentence is completed.
- _____ To indicate the speaker's emphasis.
- [/] Used to enclose editorial comments of the transcriber such as */Meeting appears to be breaking up/* or */Several speakers speak at once and none of the words are intelligible./*

Names:

The first time a name is mentioned, the full name is provided whenever it is known. "JFK" and "RFK" are used for President Kennedy and Robert Kennedy, respectively. When the identity of a speaker is unknown, "Speaker?" is used; when the identification of a speaker is uncertain, a question mark follows the name. The heading of each transcript gives the names of all participants listed in the President's Appointment Books as scheduled to attend the meeting.

Preparation:

These electronic documents were created from transcripts available in the audiovisual research room in the John F. Kennedy Library. The transcripts were scanned using optical character recognition and the resulting text files were proofread against the original transcripts. Some formatting changes were made.

Papers of John F. Kennedy

Presidential Recordings

Dictabelts

Dictabelt 27D

Conversation #1A: Bill Tyler, calling from the President's Office, and Basil /Robinson/

October 12, 1963, 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Tyler¹: Hello, Basil.

Mr. /Robinson/: Good morning, Bill.

Mr. Tyler: Good morning, Basil, greetings, I am calling from the President's office.

Mr. /Robinson/: Yes.

Mr. Tyler: He has just talked with the Prime Minister . . .

Mr. /Robinson/: Yes.

Mr. Tyler: . . . and I am going to read to you a statement which they have both agreed should be immediately released.

Mr. /Robinson/: Thank you.

Mr. Tyler: And soon as I get back to my office, if you like, I can have it copied and sent over to you, though it will be released at 11:30, so that we can get a copy for you from here. But the President did want you, uh . . . the Ambassador and you to be informed of it. It goes as follows:

“President Kennedy and Prime Minister Pearson of Canada today discussed by phone the difference which has developed regarding Maritime Union Organization on the Great Lakes. Following this conversation, the President issued the following statement: ‘I share with Prime Minister Pearson the hope that the Great Lakes maritime matter

¹ William R. Tyler

can be settled quickly, fairly, and without further misunderstanding, and join in his appeal for a responsible solution.

“There has been earnest efforts on both sides to find a basis for settlement in an agreement between the Canadian and U. S. Labor organizations. These efforts have apparently failed. This is cause for serious regret, but not for mutual recrimination that might prejudice future relationships between the two countries.

““The U. S. government has not and will not express any judgment regarding the legislation which is now pending in the Canadian Parliament. We stand ready, at the same time, to pursue any course of cooperative action which will serve the public and private interests which are involved here.””

That is the end of the press release.

Mr. [Robinson]: Right.

Mr. Tyler: So the Prime Minister knows this. The President read it to him and this is the final agreed version, and it will be put out quite shortly, in about ten or fifteen minutes.

Mr. [Robinson]: Well, I think what we will do, if we may, Bill, is to send a man to the White House.

Mr. Tyler: If you would, yea, that would be good. I will tell Pierre Salinger.

Mr. [Robinson]: We will do that immediately. And we appreciate very much your calling.

Mr. Tyler: Right, Basil, will you let Charles know? Will you, if you can reach him?

Mr. [Robinson]: He is waiting for a call.

Mr. Tyler: He is, fine, I heard he was in New York, but I thought that it would be easier to call you.

Mr. [Robinson]: He is on the point of leaving, but he was anxious to hear from you.

Mr. Tyler: Oh, fine. O.K., good bye.